

# **WILTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** October 20, 2014  
**Time:** 6:30 P.M.  
**Place:** Town Office

**Present:** Chairman William F. Condra and Selectmen Richard E. Swanson, Kermit R. Williams, and Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Condra.

Gary Zirpolo was the first agenda item. He requested a nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:3,11(a) at 6:31 P.M.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:53 P.M.

Jeff Stone represented the Conservation Commission to discuss the property at map and lot K-177. Jeff spoke about the article presented at last year's Town Meeting that would have transferred a strip of land to this property owner and abutters. The issue of personal junk being stored on Town property has been going on for a long time. There are several unlicensed vehicles and other items that obstruct the access to Frog Pond. This is an emergency access to the Frog Pond Conservation land. Another concern of the Conservation Commission is the possibility of contaminated ground water. Mr. Stone stated that the Commission is proud of the Town owned property and would like to see the Frog Pond area returned to a high standard as well as bringing the nonconforming use back to conforming; remove the vehicles. He asked that the Selectmen take the steps necessary to enforce this request. There was a discussion regarding removal of the vehicles. Chairman Condra said that the Town can proceed to move them if they are abandoned. Alan Preston voiced his concern about keeping the driveway open for safety issues. The driveway is Town property and the property owner has a right to pass on it. Chairman Condra stated that the Board will take action to get vehicles removed.

Members of The Masonic Temple Association were next to discuss their Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) exemption. Chairman Condra stated that he is a member of Wilton Masonic Lodge so he recused himself from voting, but not from the discussions and dialogues.

Bob Farr, Master of the Lodge spoke about the letter dated September 25, 2014 from the Assessor's office that stated the Masonic Lodge would no longer be receiving the benefit of payment in lieu of taxes. Bob was puzzled by this. He said that the Lodge has been receiving this benefit for 12+ years. It was put in place when Stuart Draper was a Selectman and modified by a subsequent Board (which Jerry Greene was on), to be in place until a future Board removed it. Mr. Farr spoke about the Lodge, stating that there was no way they could afford to pay a full tax bill that could be in the range of \$8500.

Selectman Williams spoke explaining the Assessor's reasoning which is that the State's rules don't allow Wilton to give this exemption to the Masonic Temple. He told how the Milford Masons appealed their bill and the appeal was denied. It looks at how their charitable purpose is defined and told why it does not meet the State's requirements. In summary, Selectman Williams stated that the Selectmen are not entitled to grant that exemption; but they can grant abatement. The past Select Boards created something that actually was not legal. Kermit proposes to offer an

abatement to equal their previous PILOT arrangements. He explained that the Selectmen would vote on abatement each year and the Masonic Temple would pay what they usually expected to pay. He stated that he can't guarantee this agreement for future Select Boards. Selectman Swanson stated that they are taking the advice of the Town's Assessor but he is aware that the Lodge does good community work. Bob Farr said that this was a good solution for the time being and he thanked the Board.

Motion: Selectman Swanson made a motion to table the Masonic Temple discussion until the November 3rd meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman William. The vote: Swanson, aye; Williams, aye; Condra, abstain. The motion carries.

Selectman Williams updated the Board on his conversations with representative from our bordering towns regarding perambulation. Greenville was the only town he did not connect with. Lyndeborough stated that we are all set with their borders. Gary Daniels of Milford said he would bring it up at their Selectmen's meeting. The Temple representative said they have not discussed it. Kermit offered to attend their meeting to discuss it on Tues October 28th at 5:45 P.M. He will hold off on Greenville for now. Selectman Swanson said he is interested in doing the Milford boundary. Selectman Williams said that in the end we need to do all of them. He believes that it is supposed to be the Selectmen from the older town who initiate the invitation.

Charlie McGettigan was next on the agenda to discuss Russell Street. He stated that the drainage was straightened out in 1987, with brand new, expensive, heavy duty material installed down the left hand side. He thinks it is nonsense. The drainage system went right up to the Elementary School and they never had any problems with drainage. He said they are tearing the Town apart for no reason at all. He gave details of the drainage system and stated that he is dissatisfied and he doesn't think the Town should spend a lot of money on people's land. Bob Duquette asked if anybody put a camera in the pipes and if there any forethought put into it. He showed the Selectmen a piece of the culvert pipe that was replaced, stating that there was nothing wrong with it.

Selectman Williams said that he doesn't know if the Board should have asked more questions; he listened to the Police Chief's concerns on increased traffic and felt that was justification. Charlie said that 585 feet of pipe was torn up and thrown away. Bob Duquette asked again if a camera was used. Gretchen Hutchinson's culvert was discussed by Charlie.

Steve Elliott was asked to speak on the subject. First he stated there were 280 feet of that pipe from Clark Court and up, which was a cross between clay, steel, and concrete that had to be replaced for the drainage plan that falls under the Storm Water Act; he needs to use the catch basin type. He would have loved to have saved it but there was no way to. In answer to Mrs. Hutchinson's issue: It is a driveway culvert which is the responsibility of the home owner.

Bob Duquette pressed Mr. Elliott about the drainage problems and new manholes put in behind the Town Hall. Discussion ensued until Chairman Condra ended it saying that we are here to talk about Russell Street. He explained the State mandated Storm Water plan. The arguments continued. Mr. Elliott said that he stands by his decision. Selectman Williams explained that he had met with Dawn Tuomala to discuss the Storm Water project. It's about protecting the river and the rules are very strict. There will be more rules over the next few years; rules that were not required when Charlie was there. Steve asked Charlie where it dumps into the river. Selectman Swanson explained that it was all part of the repaving program, stating that it was in the plan; we had a public hearing; we heard from the Police Chief. Charlie continued to scold the Selectmen. He asked if Monadnock Survey had to bid for the Storm Water project. He said the Selectmen need to listen when people speak. He brought up the intersections that are being changed

throughout Town. He told about Janet Langdell being unhappy that brush was thrown all over her land. He stated that nothing is going to happen; he is just wasting his time. He stated that certain statements didn't get into the minutes even though they asked if they would be. Also what the girls said that night should have got in the minutes per Charlie. Bob asked again if a camera was put down the pipes. Chairman Condra explained why cameras were not necessary and he then closed the discussion regarding Russell Street.

Steve Elliott had one additional topic to discuss with the Selectmen. He told them about a request to the Cemetery Trustee's and asked permission to consult with Attorney Little regarding disinterment. remove a Motion: Selectman Williams made a motion to allow the Cemetery Trustees to contact Attorney Little for a discussion on disinterment. Selectman Swanson seconded the motion followed by a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

The Board had a discussion on the New Reservoir. Dawn Tuomala will be contacted to see if the area needs to be reflagged.

Resident Elmer Bergin submitted information requested by the Selectmen regarding the Veteran's Exemption. The Board discussed it with a decision to draft a Warrant Article to go before the voters to ask to increase the exemption to \$350. Selectman Swanson calculated the extra cost to be \$15,000 extra.

It was noted that the Budget Committee would like to meet with the Selectmen sometime in November.

Payroll for period ending October 18, 2014 was signed.

The minutes were approved.

The Accounts Payable Manifests for the week were approved

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 P.M. by Selectman Williams, seconded by Selectman Swanson, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;

Pamela L. Atwood,  
Recording Secretary